

REMARKS

Claims 24-48 and 53-57 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 24-27 have been amended, claims 1-23, 49-52 have been or are currently being cancelled and claims 28-46 currently stand withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Thiem Phan for his indication that claims 52-57 would be allowable if rewritten to include the features of the claims in which they dependent upon.

Interview with Examiner Thiem Phan

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Thiem Phan for the time and courtesy extended to Applicants representative James M. McPherson during a telephone Examiner Interview conducted on September 12, 2007. During that interview, Applicants discussed amending claims 24-27 to include the features of claims 51 and 52, wherein the Examiner agreed that amendment to claims 24-27 to include the features of claims 51 and 52 appears to place these pending claims in condition for allowance.

Applicants also discussed rejoinder of dependent claims 28-46, which are dependent upon claim 24. Examiner Phan indicated that so long as independent claim 24 remains generic to dependent claims 28-46, that rejoinder of the claims would be acceptable.

Rejection under 35 USC §102 & 103

Claims 24-27, 47, 48 and 51 were rejected under 35 USC §102 or §103 as being anticipated or obvious in view of US Patent No. 5,450,894, to Inoue et al. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Notwithstanding, pursuant to the Examiner Interview, Applicants have amended claims 24-27 to include the features of allowable claim 52. Applicants believe that claims 24-27 are in condition for allowance. Also, withdrawn claims 28-46, claims 47, 48 and 53-

57 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for being dependent upon an allowable claim.

Request for Rejoinder of the Claims

In a Restriction Requirement dated August 29, 2006, original claims 1-50 were subjected to a restriction requirement in which Applicants elected Group IV, including claims 24-50. Group IV was further subjected to a species restriction, wherein Applicants further elected, with traverse, species A, directed towards claims 25-27. Claims 24 and 47-50 where indicated as being Generic.

Applicants hereby request rejoinder of withdrawn claims 28-46. The basis of this request is that claim 24, though amended through prosecution, remains generic to the species described in withdrawn claims 28-46.

The foregoing amendments are taken in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled in view of the prior art.

Further, by the present amendment, it does not follow that the amended claims have become so perfect in their description that no one could devise an equivalent. After amendment, as before, limitations in the ability to describe the present invention in language in the patent claims naturally prevent the Applicants from capturing every nuance of the invention or describing with complete precision the range of its novelty or every possible equivalent. See, Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002). Accordingly, the foregoing amendments are made specifically in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicants would otherwise be entitled.

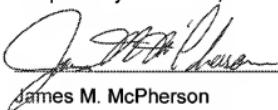
CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 292-2920.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1097 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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